

To the Right Honourable the House of LORDS.

MY Lords, For as much as the Most High God hath guided me with a Spirit of Truth, and that I have had no by-ends, but I have been sincere for the good of Kings and Kingdom; therefore I desire Your Lordships neither to despise me nor reject me. Let me be like *Balaam's* Ass, to turn away a Curse, for although *Balaam* was a Wise Man and a Prophet, yet he would have Cursed *Israel*, that they might have been destroyed, to promote himself, and was ignorant of the Angel that stood to destroy him, had not the Ass seen and turned aside; so God made the Ass an Instrument, to save his Master and prevent a Curse: Let me I pray you be like this Ass, for to turn away Wrath and Destruction: for he has invested Your Lordships with Power, to take care of the Grandure of his Kingdom. And King *David* was wise when he came into Government, he taught *Israel* to bemoan the Death of *Saul* and *Jonathan*, and the reason why? because he Clothed them with Scarlet and Gold, and other delicate things; so I see it is for the Kings Honour, as well as his Profit, for the Ladies to go in Rich Garments, for God made all the Treasure of the Earth to adorn the Saints, and to encourage them to serve him, and while they do so, they are Blessings.

I was not willing *East-India* Goods should be Prohibited, because it will make no Advantage to the Weaver, by reason it will twist about, so that it will be but our own loss, and other Peoples gain; and it is pity to lay any Tax, upon *East-India* Goods, for Trading is bad enough already, by reason Men saves their Money to serve the Government, so they have the less for Trade.

I humbly beseech Your Lordships seriously to consider, the great Advantage there is by supporting of Justice, for she supports the Kingdom, and if you let her fall, you will all fall; for no Man shall know what is his, for it is Justice that keeps you in Peace and safety: Therefore Our Blessed Saviour Exhorts, *To do unto all Men, as you would have them do unto you, this is the Foundation of the Law and the Prophets.*

And all Men is apt to say, that the Old Company hath been hardly dealt withal, but I am apt to think it was through a mistake; but now it is in your Lordships Power, to do them Right and Justice, and the God of Justice assist you, that you may be able to do that which is Just and Right in his sight: For Covetousness is hateful; therefore God hath forbid, that any Man should covet what another Man hath; and God is angry with them that breaks his Laws, and many a time a Kingdom is punished for it, as the Children of *Israel* could not withstand their Adversaries, neither would God fight their Battle, till the Offender was found out, that stole the Cursed things, the Silver, the Gold, and the Babylonious Garment: so *Achan* was ingenuous, for he confessed he had sinned, and submitted to the Punishment, and so the anger of the Lord ceased. I wish that the New Company may be so ingenious for the good of their own Souls, to acknowledge the Breach of Gods Laws, and especially Mr. *Sheppard*, because he was the Head and Ringleader; I should be glad if he would repent, and I do not doubt but that God will Pardon him, and all the rest; for I do not love Men should bring Punishments upon their own Heads, but if they persist in having their Bargain, and will not submit to have their Money returned them, God will find out a way to Punish them as he has disappointed their Expectations, in having five or six Chests filled with Billets for Silks; which I think should be a means to open their Eyes to be weary of their Bargain, for they do not know what Misfortunes they may have, for the Seas are dangerous, therefore there is a necessity to undo what your Lordships have done, and in so doing you may do them good: For what harm can it be for them to have their Money, for to Trade in other things, that they may have a greater Blessing? And to have Eight *per Cent.* is Interest enough, for they cannot complain they have injury done them: And to Establish the Old *East-India* Company, will be an act of Goodness, and Justice; and I do not doubt but that your Lordships will receive Honour by so doing; and there is some of the New ones that are wise and moderate, may do well to be United, and so the Old Company may be rightly Established, which will be an Honour to the Kingdom; so it may be the occasion of a happy Unity, and prevent Gods Judgments amongst us, and the Generations that are to come, may praise you, for setting them such an Example of Justice: And God may enable the Old ones to discharge the New ones, that are not joyned, so all Men may be pleased.

So the Almighty direct you, that you may be happy here and hereafter: So I rest your humble Servant, and Souls-well-wisher, ELINOR JAMES.